



Discipline for Toddlers

To Discipline means to Teach!



Discipline teaches...

- Positive Behaviors
- Positive ways to play
- Family Values
- Safety for the child, other people and things



Discipline is NOT punishment. Punishment may...

- Make young children feel unloved
- Make them feel they are bad
- Focus on what is **WRONG** without teaching what is **RIGHT**



It is important to remember...

- Your toddler is beginning to find out that she is her own person. She may say "No" and "Me do it!"
- Your toddler has a memory, but it is very short. He needs to repeat something over and over before it stays in his memory. He isn't trying to be bad when he messes with the TV buttons after you've told him to stop. He just doesn't remember the rule yet!
- Toddlers act without thinking. If they see something to climb, they'll climb it without thinking about how to get down.
- Toddlers can't plan ahead. They can't wait. They want things now! This doesn't mean that your toddler is greedy, selfish or bad. It's just a normal part of her growing.
- The secret of teaching a toddler: Help the toddler **WANT** to do what you want him to do! For example, say: *I'll bet you're strong enough to carry your plate to the sink!*
- Teaching a toddler with love and respect will earn you two rewards: Right Now, you'll have more fun than fusses. In the Future, your child will see you as loving and caring, and will want to please you.



Make your house safe for your toddler...

- Toddlers are curious and will taste and touch everything in sight.
- Move things out of reach if they are dangerous or can be broken. That way you won't have to fuss or say "No!" as often.



Distract your child...

From something you don't want him to do. Offer a toy, or show him something else to do. Example: If he starts to chew on a crayon, give him a toy or a cracker instead.



Praise your toddler again and again...

For doing something right. Example: You're growing up! You put the Jello in your mouth instead of your hair!



Use "Do" rules...

So your toddler can learn WHAT TO DO instead of WHAT NOT TO DO. Example: "Please use your indoor voice" instead of "Don't yell in the house."



Set routines...

For meal time, bedtime, and bath time. Toddlers behave better when they know what to expect.



When you correct a toddler...

Make sure that what you do fits the situation. Example: If your child draws on the wall, take away her crayons for a while—and help her clean the wall.

